

Norton-Radstock Urban District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year ended 31st December, 1945

To the Chairman & Members of the
Norton-Radstock Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the
Sanitary conditions and Health of your District for the year
ended 31st December, 1945.

Section A.

(1)	Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	3360
(2)	Population	...	...	...	...	11,896
(3)	Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	3,251
(4)	Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£ 41,782
(5)	Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£165
(6)	Chief Industries:-					

Coal Mining
Paper Bag Making
Printing
Glove Making
Wagon Repair Works
Agriculture
Timber Constructional Works

Unemployment.

There were 55 men permanently unemployed during the past year.

Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births -			
Legitimate	141	73	68
Illegitimate	2	0	2
Still Births -			
Legitimate	1	1	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 12.1%

Deaths -

Death rate per 1,000 population	7.2%
Death rate from Puerperal Causes	0.
Rate per 1,000 births	0.
Puerperal sepsis	0.

Death rate in infants under 1 year of age	
All infants per 1,000 live births	21.0%
Legitimate infants per 1,000	
live births	21.0%
Illegitimate infants per 1,000	
live births	0%

Deaths in Infants under 1 year of age	
Under 1 week	1
1 - 4 weeks	0
1 - 6 months	1
6 - 12 months	1

Total	3

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	21
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0

The chief causes of Death (all ages) were -

Heart Disease	23
Cancer	21
Cerebral Haemorrhage & Thrombosis	9

Causes of Death -

Heart Disease	23
Other Circulatory Diseases	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage & Thrombosis	9
Cancer	21
Bronchitis	1
Silicosis	3
Fibrosis of Lung	1
Broncho Pneumonia	1
Pneumonia	4
Diabetes	1
Nephritis	7
Peniculous Anaemia	1
Gastric Ulcer	1
Hodgkins Disease	1
Measles	1
Accidental Injury	2
Suicide	1
Senile Decay	1
Prematurity	1

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority -

- (a) Temporary Medical Officer of Health (Part-time).
- (b) Surveyor and Water Engineer.
- (c) Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

- 2. (a) Laboratory Facilities (No change)
- (b) Ambulance Facilities (No change)
- (c) Nursing in the Home (No change)

The district nurses provide an excellent service up to the limit of their capacity. It is felt that they have potentially more work than with which they can fully cope.

(d) Treatment Centres & Clinics.

- 1. Tuberculosis. Patients receive attention at Leigh House, Radstock under arrangement with the County Council. Service satisfactory.

- 2. Venereal Disease. The nearest available clinics are at Bath and Bristol. A visiting Bath Consultant attends the Memorial Hospital, Paulton, twice a month. Advice to female patients could be obtained through this source in non-urgent cases.

- 3. Infant and Child Welfare Service. The fortnightly clinic is still held and while it is realised that the voluntary helpers are doing excellent work under difficult conditions, it is considered that this might be better attended. New premises and stimulation of interest in many ways are required.

4. Maternity Services.
Owing to the housing shortage, it is not convenient for many women to be confined at home. Difficulty is experienced in finding lying-in accommodation, and further facilities are required (e.g. The demands for beds at the Memorial Hospital, Paulton are many times those available).
5. Scabies Centre.
This was closed during the year.
6. Eradication of bed bugs.
There have been no cases to deal with during the year.
7. Hospitals Public and Voluntary (No changes).
One Joint Isolation Hospital at Paulton serves the whole area for infectious diseases and can carry out the disinfection of bedding, etc. The public appear reluctant to avail themselves of the service provided.

Section C.

(1) Water -

The District is supplied from three sources -
(1) The Bottlehead Springs at Downhead.
(2) Downside and Gurney Slade Springs.
(3) Chilcompton Springs.

The quantity of water available was satisfactory for the greater part of the year. During a few weeks of drought period, the supply was curtailed between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The quality of water has been satisfactory and all supplies are chlorinated.

No samples of raw water were submitted for bacteriological or chemical analysis.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action on lead.

No form of contamination is known.

With the exception of two or three cases, all dwelling houses are supplied from the public mains, mostly by direct supply into the house and in other cases, to a stand-pipe immediately adjacent to the dwelling.

Analyses of the sources of water not connected with the Council supply - NIL.

Swimming Bath.

It is considered that the construction of a public swimming bath would be a great asset to the neighbourhood. It might well be combined with a public recreational park for children.

River Pollution.

There were no cases dealt with during the year.

Drainage & Sewerage.

No sewer extensions have been carried out. The drainage into Septic tanks in the Thicket Mead area continues to be unsatisfactory. A mechanical screen rake was fitted at the Radstock Sewerage Works.

Section D.

Housing. In consequence of housing conditions the normal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts has not been taken. There is a general shortage of houses and 19 condemned houses are let on licence. Houses that are unfit have to be occupied owing to lack of accommodation.

Section E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(A) Milk Supply -

(a)	Total number of Registered Dairy Farms	39
(b)	Number of Retailers	21
(c)	Number of Producer-retailers included in (b)	19
(d)	Number of licensed pasteurizing plants	0
(e)	Number of Heat Treatment plants not included in (d)	1

There is one Tuberculin Tested and six Accredited Producers.

Number of licences given to graded milk producers by County Council.....	7
Number of licences for Pasteurization by Local Authority.....	0

It would be in the public interest if all cattle were Tuberculin tested.

An adverse report owing to temporarily defective heat treating plants was received on the milk supplied by one producer during the year.

It is considered that the safest system would be to have all milk pasteurized at a central plant under the control of the Sanitary Inspector.

The County Council Laboratory undertakes the examination of samples of milk.

During the year 20 samples of accredited and 12 for Tuberculosis examinations were submitted.

(B) Meat and other Foods -

Slaughter Houses - Licensed	...	9
Registered	...	0

Knackers yards - There are none registered in the District.

(C) Adulteration - No action has been taken under the sales of drugs Act.

(D) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food -

The Somerset County Council Laboratories at Taunton carry out any examination necessary.

(E) **Nutrition** - The general standard of nutrition of children is satisfactory, whilst capable of improvement in individual cases. The provision of meals at schools is an asset.

There would seem room for a public restaurant in the District. It would appear unfortunate if the scheme of British Restaurants were now to lapse instead of being extended.

(F) **Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year -**

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	8	2	0
Measles	257	1	1
Whooping Cough	18	2	0
Pneumonia	10	0	5
Erysipelis	2	0	0

Vaccination.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations 1907.

Any further relaxation in this regulation concerning vaccination is a matter of anxiety.

There has been a number of Small-pox contacts from the forces in this District, but no case has so far occurred. The risk of this source of infection appears likely to continue.

Tuberculosis.

	<u>Total Cases notified</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Respiratory	14	1
Non Respiratory	2	0

I would like to thank those who have assisted in the preparation of this report, and to whom I am even more than usually indebted, being absent for the greater part of the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) A. H. BULLEID (Dr.)

